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Editorial

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

We wish to draw the attention of our readers to the programme (p. 157) of the meeting of the Association to be held in St. Louis on May 4, 5. It has been arranged with special reference to the varying interests and activities of the members of the Association, and will be found to include papers in almost all the important fields of classical study. The plan of making up the list by special invitation, recommended by the Programme Committee at the organization meeting, has been followed, and this method not only insures a high standard in the papers read, but also adjusts the balance of interest with a precision that could not otherwise be attained. In the case of the papers of more general interest a definite period has been provided for discussion. This is a most commendable feature, and we venture to express the hope that nothing may be allowed to infringe upon it. However ingenious the theory advanced by the speaker, however clear his presentation, there is always a distinct value in full and free discussion; it dulls the edge of vicious theory and doubles the impact of sound doctrine.

The local arrangements are in the hands of a competent committee, and even at this early date it is clear that the social aspects of the reunion will be unusually attractive.

But apart from these considerations there are special reasons why every member of the Association should endeavor to attend this meeting. Coming as it does at the end of the first year of the Association's activity, it gives us an opportunity of considering in detail the many questions that have arisen in the course of these months. We can take stock, and lay our plans for the future in the light of past experience. We must, for example, devise ways

and means of increasing our membership. To be sure, our growth in a single year has been remarkable. It has been amply demonstrated that ours is a real and not an artificial union; we have now nearly nine hundred members in good standing. But the work has only begun. There are thousands of classical teachers in the territory whom we have not yet reached—men and women whose co-operation is as essential to our complete success as it is to their own academic efficiency; and it is only at a large and representative meeting that we can determine upon the best methods of interesting them in the cause. There are other questions also which should receive careful consideration: What relations can be established between our Association and the various local classical conferences? That there is an opportunity here for mutual strengthening can hardly be doubted. Again, in what way can the Association best bring its influence to bear upon the making of school and college curricula? The representatives of other organizations and other departments have for a long time been persistently pushing their subjects to the front. Their influence upon boards of trustees, school superintendents, and college faculties has been enormous. Subjects to which, ten years ago, little time was given, and subjects entirely new, have shown an astounding and in some cases deplorable expansion. This has invariably resulted in the crowding, or even the exclusion, of studies of the older curriculum, among which the classics have suffered most severely. The Association would fail in one of its most important functions if it did not meet the situation resolutely and combat what its members must regard as dangerous influences in modern educational theory.

The editors have pleasure in announcing that, as a result of a recent action of the University of Chicago Press, this and subsequent numbers of the *Journal* will contain forty pages instead of thirty-two. A further increase to forty-eight pages will be made as soon as the financial situation warrants it.